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- 1. (Currently Amended) A method for providing communication service comprising the steps of:
 - an intelligent peripheral receiving an alert message, from a database unit, (a) which message specifies a communication protocol parameter;
 - with reference to a database within said intelligent peripheral, establishing (b) a connection between said database unit and said intelligent peripheral to operate in accord with a protocol pointed to by said protocol parameter,
 - (c) communicating information between said database unit and said intelligent peripheral; and
 - (d) communicating information between a switch and said intelligent peripheral over a bearer connection between them.
- 2. (Original) A method for providing communication service comprising the steps of:

a switch sending information to a database unit;

in response thereto, said database unit sending a message to an intelligent peripheral specifying a communication protocol;

said intelligent peripheral perusing an internal database to determine parameters for establishing a connection in accord with said protocol;

said intelligent peripheral establishing a connection, and communicating, with said database unit pursuant to said protocol; and

said intelligent unit communicating with said switch over a bearer connection.

- 3. (Original) The method of claim 2 where said specification of said communication protocol by said database unit takes the form of specifying a parameter of a protocol that uniquely specifies a protocol, and operating parameter of said protocol.
- 4. (Original) The method of claim 2 where the connection between the intelligent peripheral and the database unit is via a signaling network.

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- 5. (Original) The method of claim 2 where the connection between the database and the switch is over a signaling network
- 6. (Original) The method of claim 2 where said bearer connection is established following the establishment of said connection between the database and the intelligent peripheral
- 7. (Original) The method of claim 6 where said bearer connection is established in response to a message send by said switch to said intelligent peripheral.
- 8. (Original) The method of claim 7 where said message sent by said switch to said intelligent peripheral is following a message sent by said database unit to said switch.
- 9. (Original) The method of claim 6 where establishment of said bearer is initiated by said intelligent peripheral after receipt of said message from said database unit.
- 10. (Original) The method of claim 2 where said communicating between said intelligent peripheral and said database unit occurs after establishment of said bearer connection.
- 11. (Original) The method of claim 2 where said communicating between said intelligent peripheral and said database unit comprises said database unit informing said intelligent peripheral to perform a specified service.
- 12. (Original) The method of claim 11 further comprising the step of said intelligent peripheral performed said specified service and sending results to appropriate destination.

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- 13. (Original) The method of claim 12 where said appropriate destination is said database unit.
- 14. (Original) The method of claim 12 where said appropriate destination is said switch.
- 15. (Original) The method of claim 11 further comprising the step of said intelligent peripheral performed said specified service and sending results to said database unit via said switch.